

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] The degasser 12 is a cylindrical tank having a side wall 20, bottom wall 22 and upper wall 24. A flare stack 26 is affixed to the upper wall 24 which has a gas outlet port 28 therein, whereby the interior of the degasser is open to the stack 26. The side wall 20 has liquid outlet ports 30 therein at its lower edge, whereby liquid (principally drilling mud) in the degasser can flow into the holding tank 14, as described below.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] An inlet conduit 32 is adapted to conduct fluid from a flare line 62 into the degasser. It comprises components to facilitate both connection to the flare line and compact placement against the side wall 18 of the holding tank 14. A straight pipe section 34 connects to the inlet port 36 of the degasser. The connection is preferable ~~preferable~~ preferably approximately horizontal. The pipe section 34, or an extension ~~thereof~~ thereof, extends into the interior of the degasser 12 and is directed approximately horizontally towards a wear plate 38, which is welded to the side wall 20. It is possible for the wear plate to be omitted from the apparatus, in which case incoming fluid will directly strike the side wall of the degasser. However, to protect the side wall from excessive wear, a wear plate is preferred.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] It will be apparent from the foregoing description and from consideration of the drawings that the combination of two connectors in the inlet conduit that can be swivelled permits the end pipe section 58 of the inlet conduit to be moved to a variety of positions for connection to the flare line 62. In practice, this means that the flare tank apparatus can be unloaded at the job site close to the end of the flare line, without careful positioning, and then easily connected to the flare line by movement of the inlet conduit so that pipe section 58 is aligned with flare line 62 and their respective ends abut each other and are sealed together by a ~~convention~~ conventional threaded fitting. A special welded connection between the inlet conduit and the flare line, as in the prior practice, is unnecessary.